

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

SECRET

17 March
6 April 1949: VON MENDE arrived in Munich and ~~was~~ talked to CIA representatives who were favorably impressed.

Upon his return home VON MENDE wrote a friend [] that he definitely wished to change his sponsors. Entire initiative VON MENDE application ~~came~~ from him, which cleared US representatives with British, i.e. trying to steal their employee. *These officers thought he would be a valuable asset at Munich University for the German.*

8 April 1949: Washington authorized Munich to proceed on the following conditions:

- a. [] must be cut out of the operation at earliest chance.
- b. Go ahead with the proposal to establish VON MENDE in a post at Munich University.
- c. Make no commitments without specific Washington approval.

19 April 1949: VON MENDE unwilling to reveal the identities of groups, individuals under British exploitation in view lack of mutual commitments regarding the cooperation between himself and US possibilities. Views of VON MENDE regarding emigration and program he would establish.

14 May 1949: VON MENDE offered his services at any time convenient to us. Proposed to move to Munich with his wife, two children, and take a post at Munich University, on official invitation of the latter. British aware in general of his wished to resume university work and would accede to his request for release, he says. Rector of Munich University ready to arrange the invitation.

He wished to leave the British because:

- a. impossibility to plan either ^{his} intelligence or academic career under their sponsorship.
- b. isolated in Brackwede/Bielefeld, he is painfully aware of his indigenous status and absence of long range plans for his future use.

SECRET

[]

Would accept equally transitory status with AIS, if he would be able to plan a University Career and undertake his own research but offers unrestricted services anywhere on career basis if physical and financial security of family assured.

SECRET

Agrees without reservation to follow our operational decisions, policies, general and specific requests with the same compensation as given by the British, i.e. 475 IM per month, ~~and~~ lodging for his family and volkswagon on a loan.

He is in touch with majority of leaders of emigre Ukrainians, White Ruthenians, Georgians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, North Caucasians, Turkestanis, Volga and Crimeans Tartars, Kalmyks, Latvians, and Estonians.

Proposal was to recruit VON MENDE for six months as advisor in his field and in the collection ~~and~~ and organization of operational intelligence. During this time he would establish academic position, independent overt student group, library within university, and deny affiliation with any I.S.. Could also be kept apart from all MOB operations.

24 June 1949: Project approved by Washington,

15 August 1949: Decision in Munich that VON MENDE's approach to the USSR was based entirely upon a methodical preliminary study of targets, agent personnel, channels, and operational barriers related to its areas, could play no useful role in the immediate selection, training and dispatching of agents which is the principal effort at MOB.
 It was felt that there were not sufficient personnel to handle VON MENDE and his project
VON MENDE was informed on 2 August that our plan to employ him ~~was~~ would be postponed for an indefinite period. He was also told that his proposals may be taken up if and when personnel became available to negotiate with him.

SECRET

[2]